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CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 33.2
TITLE: BLADDER STIMULATORS

AUTHORITY: 38 CFR 17.270(a) and 17.272(a)

RELATED AUTHORITY: 32 CFR 199.4(c)(1) and (g)(15)

I. EFFECTIVE DATE

February 26, 1986

II. PROCEDURE CODE(S)

53899

III. DESCRIPTION

An external or implantable device used to induce emptying of the urinary bladder by using electrical current to force muscles of the bladder to contract. They are commonly called bladder stimulators or bladder pacemakers.

IV. POLICY

Bladder stimulators (pacemakers). Spinal cord, rectal, vaginal or bladder wall stimulators (direct or indirect) are not a covered benefit.

V. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Sacral nerve stimulators for urge incontinence differ from and are exclusive of bladder stimulators (pacemakers) or pelvic floor electrical stimulators and are covered (see [Chapter 2, Section 33.1, Urinary System](#)).

END OF POLICY